

# ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES *Adventure Starts Here!*



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
FY25**



**WWW.ARNGCYS.COM**



# MISSION

The mission of Army National Guard Child & Youth Services is to promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of Army National Guard dependent children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs.



*Having my child involved in the Child and Youth Program has been incredibly valuable to our family. It's helped bridge the gap between my military and family life by giving my son the chance to better understand what we do in uniform, connect with others, and feel part of the bigger picture. His increased involvement and engagement have made it easier for me to continue my service and stay focused on the mission.*

SSG Amanda Demarco, MOARNG



# PROGRAM GOALS



## *Education*

Provide developmentally-appropriate life skills education to National Guard youth



## *Access*

Provide information on access to Federal and State/Territory benefits that support National Guard children and Families, including: counseling, education, child care, and other resources needed to foster a healthy, stable and secure family environment



## *Opportunity*

Create partnerships for opportunities to participate in programs, events, and activities geared toward the behavioral and physical health and welfare of children and youth that are available across the spectrum of Government, community, and private sector



## *Communication*

Build a sense of belonging to the Army National Guard Community by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents/legal guardians, and youth program coordinators in one's community, state/territory, and across the nation



## *Resilience*

Infuse resiliency and leadership skills and techniques into all Army National Guard child and youth programming



## *Outreach*

Build and sustain contact with parents/legal guardians, and children of the National Guard in order to create awareness of available support services and program



*A Year of  
Adventure!*



# WHERE ADVENTURE LEADS

**67,010** *Military Youth Served*

**32,997** *Army National Guard, 6-12 Year Olds*

**20,322** *Army National Guard, 13-18 Year Olds*

**5.52%**

**Increase**  
overall military  
youth served

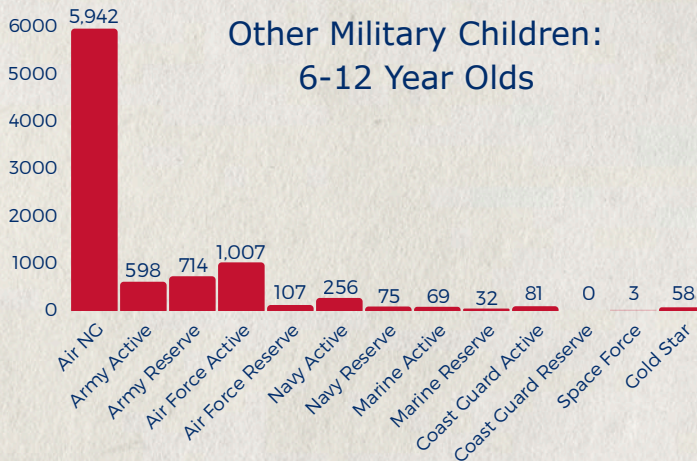
**2.85%**

**Increase**  
ARNG 6-12 year  
olds served

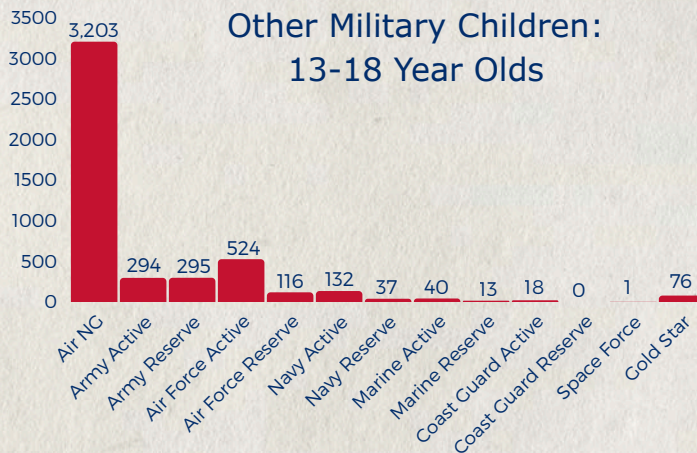
**32.26%**

**Increase**  
ARNG 13-18 year  
olds served

Other Military Children:  
6-12 Year Olds



Other Military Children:  
13-18 Year Olds



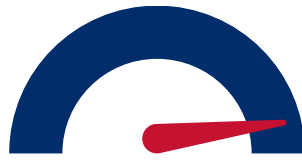


# THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ARNG CYS



**93%**

of parents agreed their youth developed the skills necessary to be successful



**93%**

of families said they can better identify and access available resources



**94%**

of parents agreed their youth gained opportunities to participate in positive activities



**70%**

of families agreed participation strengthened their view of the military community



**92%**

of parents agreed their youth can better handle challenges and unexpected changes



**80%**

of families say their perception of the military directly influences a Soldier's decision to remain in service

\*Results from FY25 Soldier Parent Survey







*"As a military spouse and parent to two boys growing up with a very busy military dad, I've seen firsthand how resilience is built in everyday moments—through every career change, every goodbye for training, and every new beginning. Our children's strength gives us the readiness to serve and stay mission-focused, knowing they are supported and growing. Programs like the Child & Youth Program don't just help our kids—they help our families stay connected, grounded, and committed, to the mission and keeps families supported and knowing we aren't alone."*

Jennifer Campbell, NEARNG Spouse



## BUILDING STRONGER PATHS TOGETHER

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is unique in that Soldiers and Families often live far from traditional military installations. To bridge that distance, Child and Youth Services (CYS) partners with community leaders, educators, and organizations to connect Families with vital local and national resources. Through these partnerships and comprehensive resource and referral services, CYC strengthens resilience, supports Families throughout the deployment cycle, and contributes directly to Soldier readiness.

In FY25, CYC Leads and Coordinators responded to more than **38,500 Soldier and Family resource requests**, ranging from child care assistance to academic and tutoring support. The launch of a live chat feature on the CYC website in April 2025 provided an additional avenue for connection, with over 240 inquiries answered at an average response time of just 15 minutes.

By providing timely support and strong connections, the ARNG CYC Program ensures Soldiers and Families remain ready, resilient, and supported—no matter where their adventure leads.

## 102 - EDUCATION OUTREACH

The ARNG CYC team made a strong impact by delivering outreach trainings, meetings, briefings, and school support groups that **reached 2,486 school administrators, educators, support staff, and students**. Across many states and territories, staff also partnered with local colleges and universities to provide college and career planning courses for teens and parents, along with ACT and SAT preparation opportunities.



## 756 - COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout FY25, CYS staff **collaborated with more than 31,000 military and civilian organizations and individuals** to strengthen networks of support for Soldiers and their families. These partnerships play a critical role in ensuring that military youth have access to resources and opportunities that enhance their well-being and resilience. This year, CYS achieved a 36.33% increase in community partnerships and a 60.59% rise in community and partner trainings or meetings, reinforcing our collective commitment to supporting the readiness and retention of the force through strong, informed communities.

**36.33%**

**Increase**  
in community  
partnerships

**60.59%**

**Increase**  
in partnership  
collaboration  
sessions

## 168 - COMMANDER, UNIT, OR FRG BRIEFINGS

Coordinators regularly brief Family Readiness Groups, Soldiers at the unit level, and senior military leaders on the services, outreach, and impact of Child and Youth Services. In FY25, CYS staff **reached 12,933 Army National Guard-connected individuals**, ensuring all levels of command and support networks were equipped with youth-related information that strengthens Soldier and Family readiness and resilience.

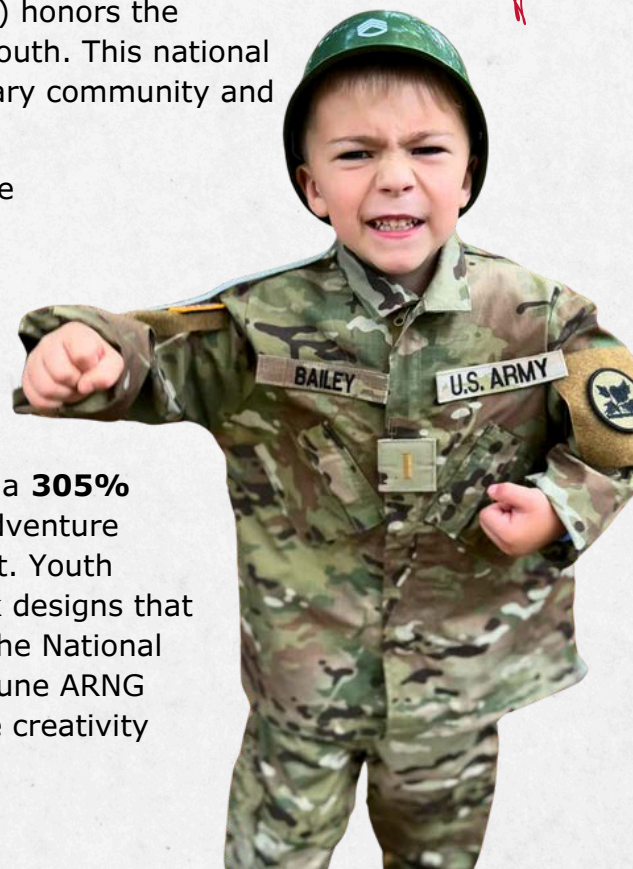


## 218 - MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD (MOMC)

Observed every April, the Month of the Military Child (MOMC) honors the strength, resilience, and adaptability of military-connected youth. This national observance highlights the vital role children play in the military community and fosters a sense of pride and belonging among families.

In FY25, the theme "Adventure Starts Here" inspired creative celebrations across the country. ARNG CYS teams hosted numerous MOMC programs, **serving more than 13,653 military youth** through **over 696 hours of direct programming**. Participation flourished, with a **43.42% increase in MOMC events** and a **71.26% increase in youth participants at state and territory events**.

At the national level, engagement reached new heights with a **305% increase in participation across activities** such as the Adventure Photo Contest, Recipe Contest, and Backpack Design Contest. Youth shared photos, favorite family recipes, and original backpack designs that reflected their adventurous spirit and pride in being part of the National Guard community. Contest winners were showcased in the June ARNG CYS Newsletter and on the ARNG CYS website, capturing the creativity and resilience that make military kids truly extraordinary.





# TEENS

*Explorers with Purpose*

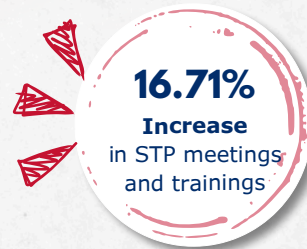
*Teen Council has given me a second family. It helped me find people who truly understand the challenges of being a military kid and showed me I'm not alone. It's become a place where I can be myself, have fun, and feel supported no matter what's going on in my life. The friendships I've made here mean so much to me, and the lessons I've learned will stay with me forever.*

Jacey B, CAARNG Teen Panel Member



## STATE TEEN PANEL

At the state and territory level, State Teen Panels (STPs) empower youth to take an active role in shaping their communities. During FY25, STP members collaborated with program staff to plan events, participate in service-learning projects, and advocate for the needs of military-connected youth. Together, they held 391 training sessions and meetings focused on leadership and skill development—reflecting a 16.71% increase in meetings and trainings and a 16.84% increase in youth participation compared to the previous year.



## RESILIENCE TRAINING

The Master Resilience Training (MRT) program, originally designed to strengthen the readiness and well-being of Soldiers and spouses, has been successfully adapted to meet the needs of military-connected youth and families. This strengths-based curriculum creates a shared language of resilience within National Guard households, reinforcing the same principles taught across the force and promoting a unified approach to overcoming challenges.

Through this initiative, young people gain practical skills that enhance their ability to manage stress, solve problems, communicate effectively, and maintain a positive outlook—competencies that mirror the resilience training received by their Soldier parents. The **Teen Curriculum** is delivered through both an **introductory 2-hour workshop** and a **comprehensive 14-skill series** focused on self-awareness, critical thinking, and character strengths.

In FY25, **5,012 youth completed the 2-hour workshop**, **459 youth completed the full curriculum**, and **29,418 families received monthly resilience materials** to strengthen communication and reinforce readiness at home.





## GUARD TEEN PANEL REPRESENTATION AT THE PENTAGON

A highlight of FY25 was Lily Johnson's selection to represent the Guard Teen Panel on the Army's Director's Teen Panel (DTP) at the Pentagon. Collaborating with delegates from other service branches, Lily addressed senior military leaders on issues impacting Guard families.

In preparation, teen delegates gathered regional data and identified key priorities, including the effects of geographic dispersion on community and service, and the importance of using accurate terminology when referring to Guard dependents in casualty programs. During five days of collaboration, delegates unified their perspectives to advocate for meaningful change.

While in Washington, D.C., Lily participated in the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and met with officials from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy, and the Casualty Programs Office. Her professionalism and insight demonstrated the strength and capability of Guard youth leaders representing the Army National Guard at the highest levels.

## GUARD TEEN PANEL ADVOCATING FOR GUARD YOUTH NATIONWIDE

The FY25 Guard Teen Panel (GTP) was composed of nine dedicated delegates who represented the Army National Guard youth voice at the national level. The panel met eight times throughout the year, collaborating on initiatives that highlighted the experiences and needs of military-connected youth. Delegates shared their perspectives and best practices through more than ten newsletter features, amplifying awareness of the ARNG Child and Youth Program (CYS) and strengthening youth engagement nationwide.

Delegates expanded their leadership through participation in regional symposiums, professional development events, and leadership briefings at the National Guard Bureau. Lily Johnson, representing the Army's Director's Teen Panel, and Kamryn Stauffacher (Region 8 Delegate) represented the Guard Teen Panel at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) National Military Youth of the Year event, connecting with youth leaders from across all branches of service.


The GTP's continued engagement and representation across national platforms reflect their commitment to advancing the interests of Guard youth and promoting programs that foster growth, connection, and resilience nationwide.

*Guard Teens continue to  
lead by example—turning  
their experiences into  
advocacy that  
strengthens our force.*






## 391 - RESIDENTIAL & DAY CAMPS




Across states and territories, 391 experiential education programs—including 84 residential, 131 day, and 176 virtual camps—helped Guard youth strengthen leadership, confidence, and teamwork. These experiences built camaraderie, connection, and resilience essential to family and mission readiness.

## 250 - PARTNERED EVENTS




FY25 strengthened collaboration with community partners such as 4-H Extension Services, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the USO, YMCA, Red Cross, and Departments of Natural Resources. Together, these partnerships expanded access to quality programs supporting the growth and well-being of National Guard children and families.

## 232 - YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAMS




The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program continued to work alongside Child and Youth Coordinators to provide Soldiers and families with research-based tools for sustaining resilience through all phases of deployment. These efforts reinforced readiness by equipping families with practical skills for managing change and maintaining connection.

## 173 - MILITARY APPRECIATION EVENTS




Throughout FY25, Child and Youth Services supported Unit Family Days and Military Appreciation events at venues such as sports arenas, zoos, museums, and state parks. By engaging families through hands-on educational activities and shared experiences, these events strengthened community ties and celebrated the service of Soldiers and their families.

## 35 - YOUTH LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUMS



In FY25, State, Territory, and Regional Youth Symposiums provided teens with opportunities to build leadership and resilience while connecting with peers from across the country. These events offered locally driven and regional collaboration spaces where youth shared deployment experiences, developed action plans, and strengthened their ability to advocate for military families.





# PREPARING THE PATH

## TRAINING

*Equipping Leaders for  
Every Adventure*

Training has remained a cornerstone of effective Positive Youth Development (PYD) within the Army National Guard (ARNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS) Program. Through consistent and targeted professional development initiatives, CYS staff were equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to foster resilience, leadership, and healthy decision-making among ARNG youth in safe, educational, and youth-centered learning environments.

Throughout the year, the ARNG CYS Program implemented a broad range of training initiatives—significantly exceeding military regulatory requirements. This strategic investment in staff development directly elevated the quality of services provided. By intentionally aligning staff development with the evolving needs of ARNG youth and families, the Program not only enhanced its effectiveness but also reinforced its role in supporting Soldier readiness, resilience, and retention—ultimately ensuring continued growth, sustainability and lasting impact.

In FY25, ARNG CYS **staff received a total of 61 hours of annual training**—well above the 24-hour requirement outlined in IMCOM 608-10-1.

Training by Category:

- Youth Development: 18.75 hours
- Staff Development: 18 hours
- Program Development: 24.25 hours

## MARKETING

*Inspiring Others to Join  
the Journey*

Marketing plays a vital role in connecting Soldiers, Families, and communities to Army National Guard (ARNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS). In FY25, the Program Management Team (PMT) expanded national visibility and strengthened support for Coordinators through creative, theme-based initiatives.

Building on the yearlong theme, “National Guard Kids: Your Adventure Starts Here,” the PMT developed new branded materials and campaigns for use across all 54 states and territories. Highlights included the “Our National Adventure” summer series and a coordinated **Month of the Military Child** campaign, which celebrated the resilience of military youth and led to a **305% increase in participation** nationwide.

The redesigned **ARNG CYS website** improved access and engagement, driving a **61% increase in views** and a **23.64% rise in subscribers**. Communication efforts expanded through two monthly newsletters—one public and one staff-focused—reaching more than **3,700 subscribers** and averaging over **1,100 downloads per month**.

**61.39%**

**Increase**  
in website views

**23.64%**

**Increase**  
in website  
subscribers



# FY25

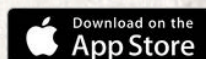
## *Annual Report*



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